

MARVEL

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**DUGGAN
BUCKINGHAM
JIMENEZ
ROSENBERG**

HOLLYWOOD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

WONDER MAN



*Paul
S.
Rudelle*

RATED T+

Not so long ago, Simon Williams, A.K.A. Wonder Man, heard the four words every Angeleno wanted to hear:

HOLD
FOR TIMELY
STUDIOS.

HI, SIMON! KEVIN'S
SCHEDULE JUST CHANGED
AND HE CAN'T MAKE THE CALL,
BUT HE WANTED YOU TO KNOW
THE DAILIES LOOK WONDERFUL.
NO PUN INTENDED.

HA!
THAT'S GREAT.
EVERYTHING
GOOD?

YES! WE WANT
YOU TO CLEAR YOUR
SCHEDULE--YOUR NEXT
FEW YEARS ARE GOING
TO BE BUSY AND
BRIGHT.

THE DEMAND
FOR MONARK
STARSTALKER TICKETS
MEANS WE'RE EXPANDING
INTO ANOTHER 1,200
SCREENS!

THAT'S
MUSIC TO
MY EARS.

MONARK
STARSTALKER



...but there's always a low following the high. This tale begins several smoggy, smoky, economically and environmentally blighted years later in Hollywood.

HI, SIMON?
I'M KEVIN'S NEW
SECOND ASSISTANT
AT TIMELY STUDIOS'
NEW--

HI, NEW
SECOND ASSISTANT.
I'M GLAD TO TALK--
I HAVE A NEW DECK
FOR THE SHOW THAT
I'D LIKE TO
SEND OVER.

OH, I DON'T
KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT A SHOW. I WAS
CALLING BECAUSE...
HANG ON LET ME
SHUT MY DOOR.



WE HAVE A
SITUATION WITH TALENT
THAT WE'RE HOPING YOU
CAN RESOLVE QUICKLY
AND QUIETLY.



AS LONG
AS IT'S NOT
RANDOLPH
AGAIN--

IT'S
RANDOLPH--



--AGAIN.

DAMN
IT!



?SIGH?

RELAX.
BREATHE.
FOCUS.

OHMMM.



WONDER MAN



"THE ONE"

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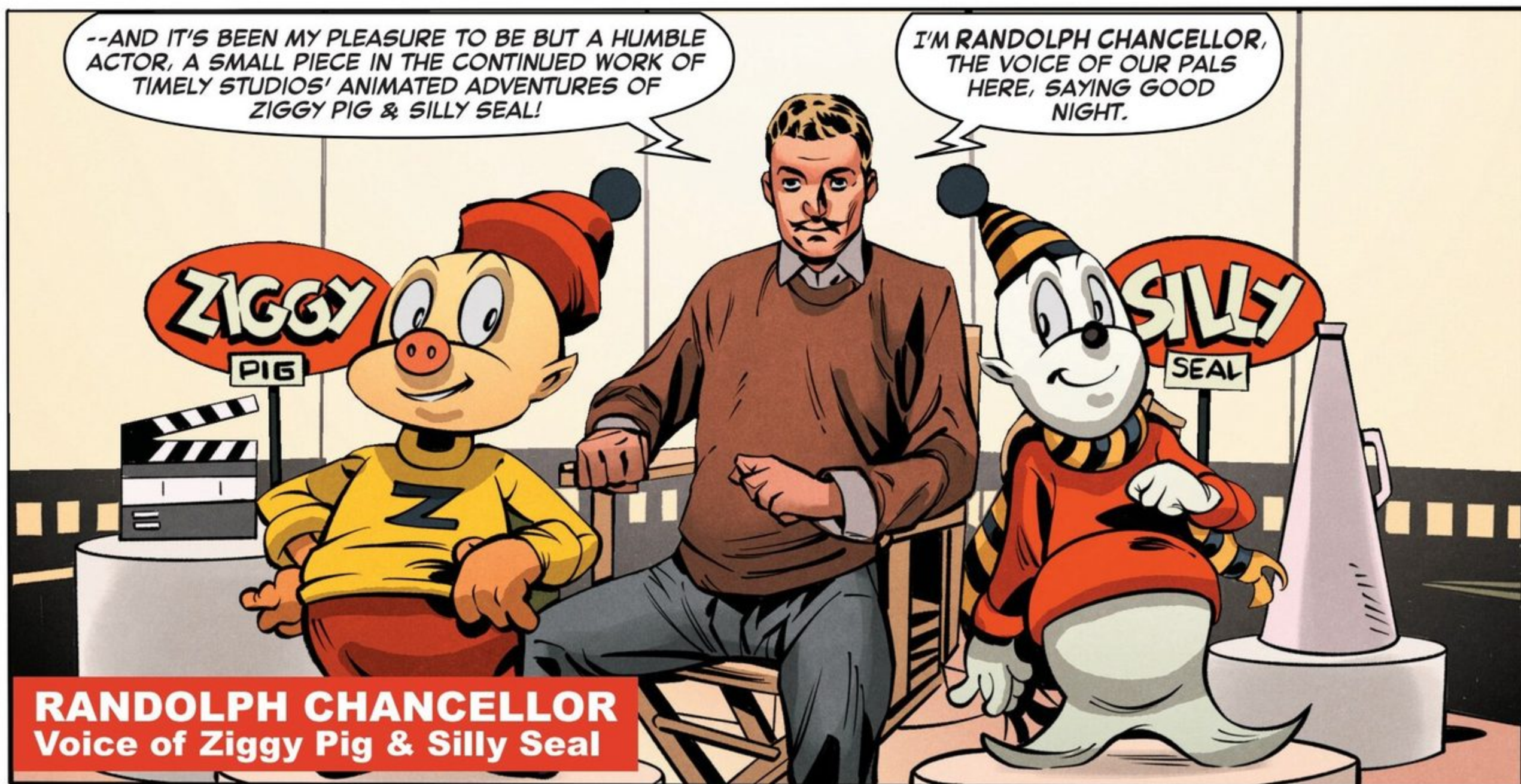
WIL MOSS

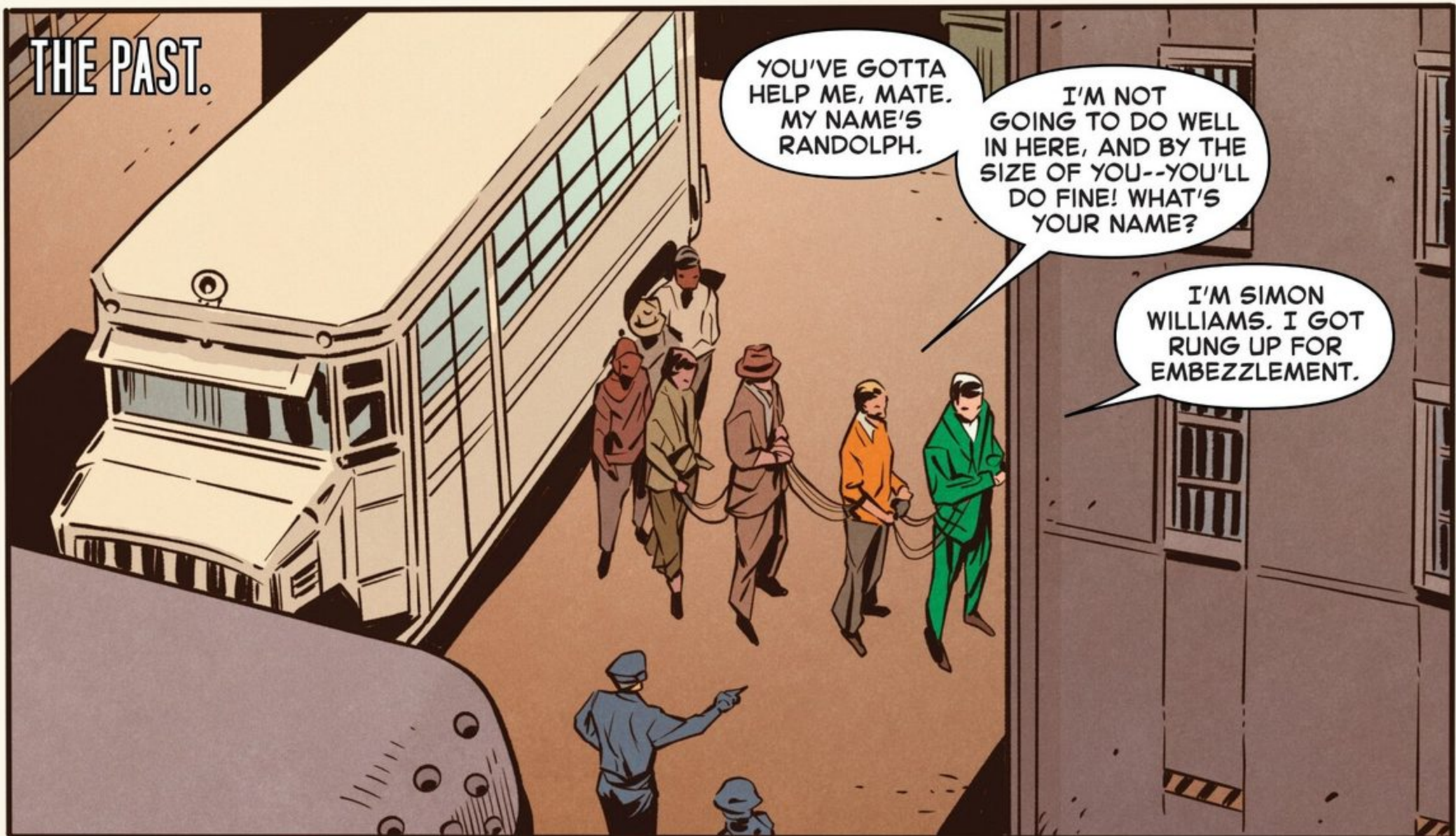
EDITOR IN CHIEF

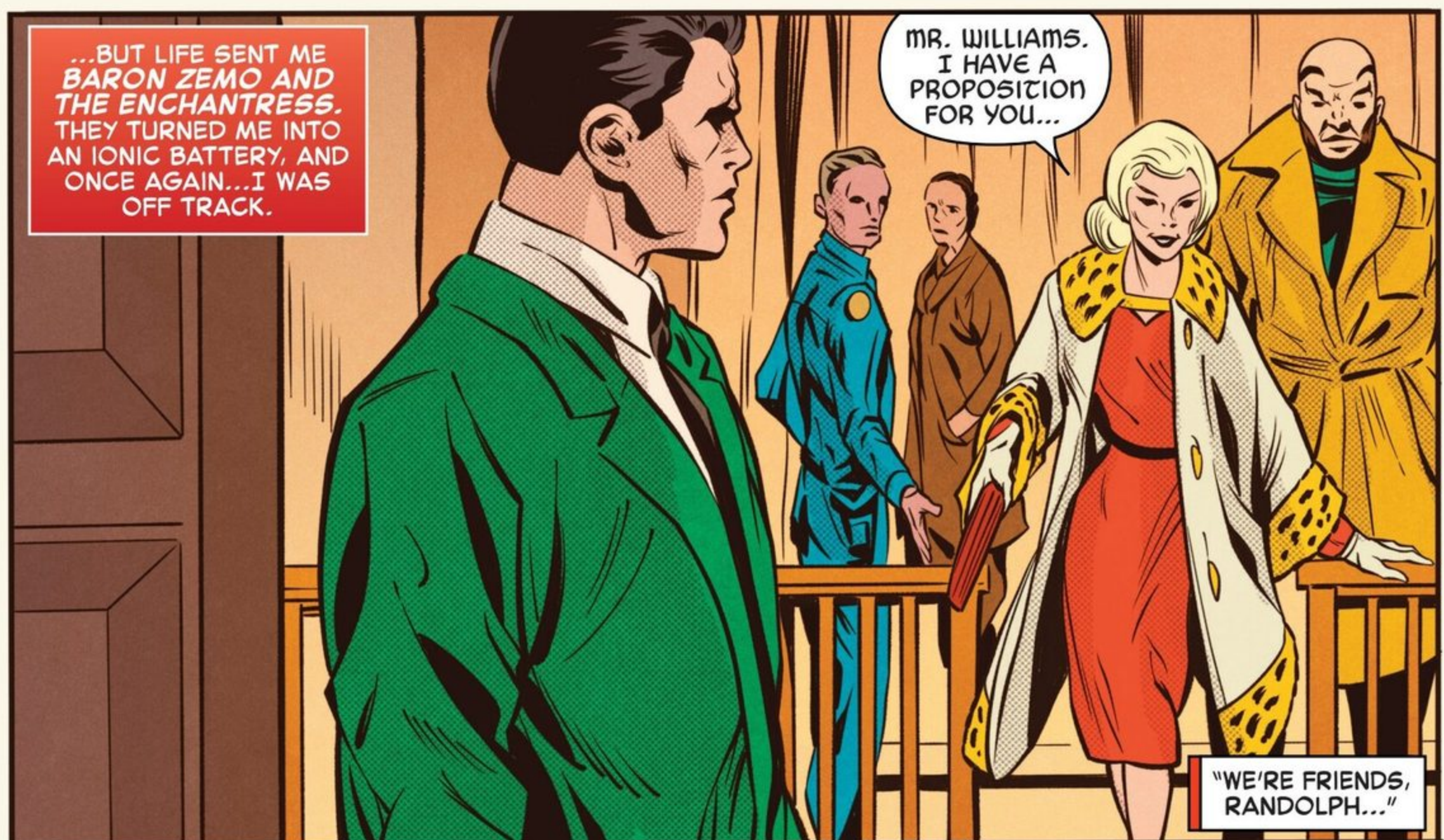
C.B. CEBULSKI

WONDER MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE, DON HECK AND JACK KIRBY











SO I'LL HELP OUT IF I CAN. JUST TELL ME EVERYTHING. BUT FIRST, START WITH THE CAR YOU STOLE FROM ME.

!GASP!
I DIDN'T STEAL YOUR CAR-- I BORROWED IT!



SO WHERE IS IT?

WELL, I **BORROWED** YOUR CAR, AND THEN SOMEBODY ELSE STOLE IT!



...NEVER MIND. WHAT'S THIS INVESTIGATION THAT HAS TIMELY SO NERVOUS?

THE STUDIO'S **NERVOUS?! AW, DAMMIT!**

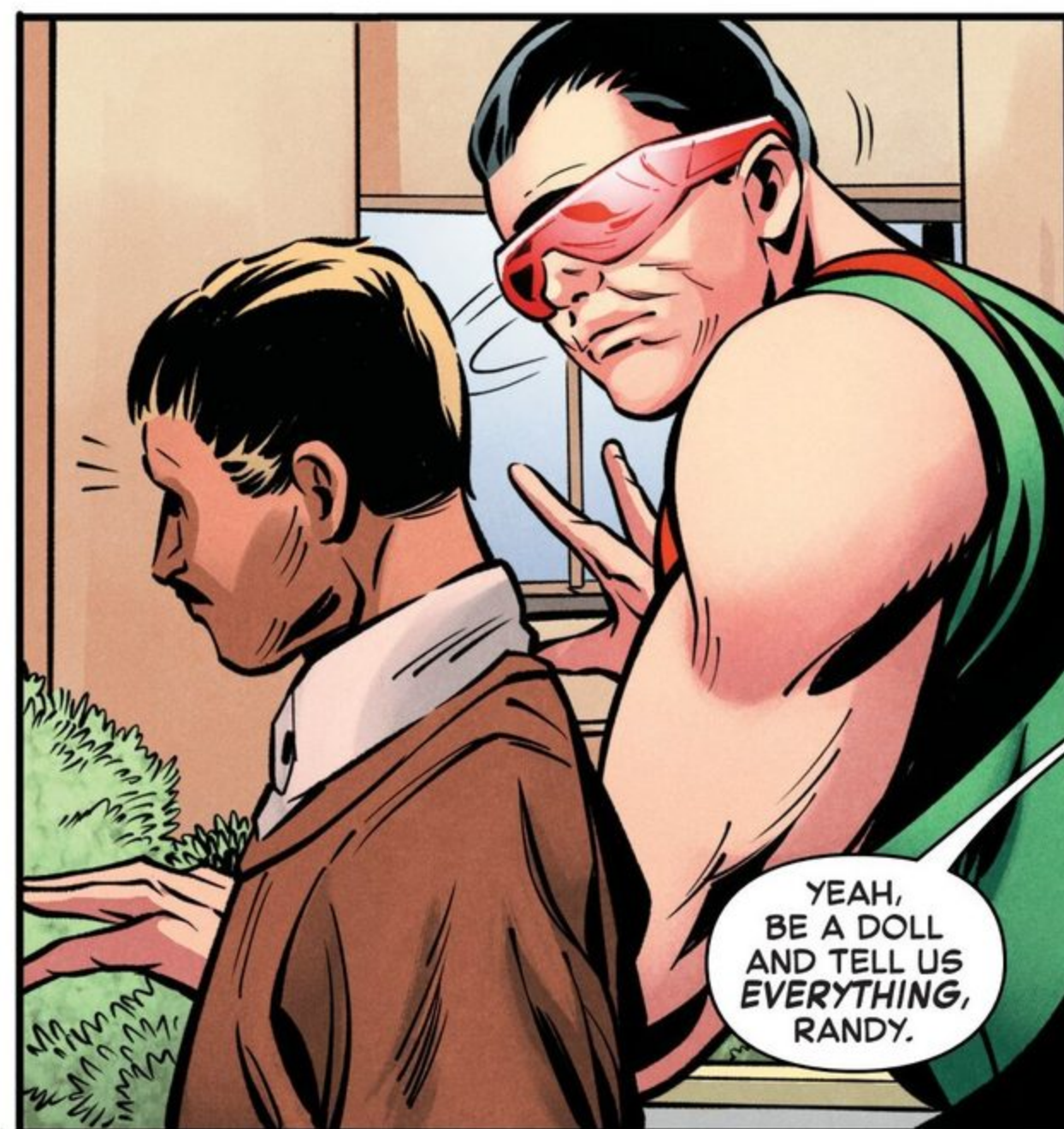
NOT ONLY AM I THE NEW VOICE OF THAT CASH-COW PIG, BUT I'M ALSO UP FOR THE PART OF THE VILLAIN IN THE LIVE-ACTION **DARKHAWK** FILM.



...MUST BE NICE.

KEVIN DOESN'T KEEP MY PRODUCTION DEAL JUST FOR MY GOOD LOOKS AND TALENT. I'VE BEEN HELPING **FIX STUFF** ON THIS LOT FOR YEARS.

SO, JUST TELL ME **EVERYTHING**, AND START FROM THE BEGINNING.



YEAH, BE A DOLL AND TELL US **EVERYTHING**, RANDY.





THIRTEEN MILLION?!



WELL, MAYBE YOU CAN REPLACE THE CAR YOU STOLE FROM ME NOW.

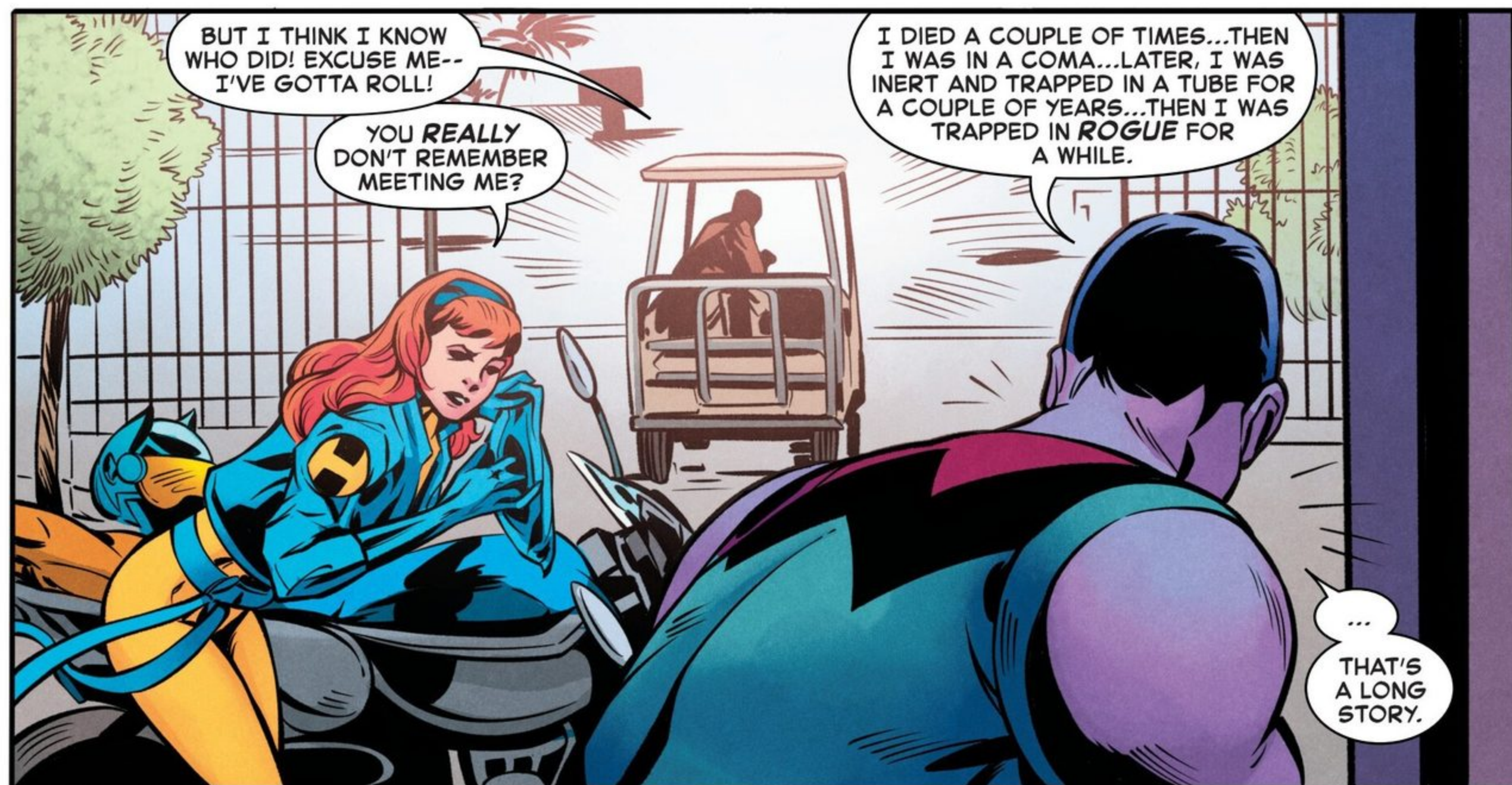
I DIDN'T STEAL YOUR CAR, SIMON!



WANNA FILE A REPORT FOR YOUR CAR?



I DIDN'T STEAL A CAR OR THIRTEEN MILLION, OR SLEEP WITH THE DUCHESS OF BIRMINGHAM OR DO ANY OF THE NAUGHTY THINGS THAT THE PRESS SAY I DID!



BUT I THINK I KNOW WHO DID! EXCUSE ME-- I'VE GOTTA ROLL!

YOU *REALLY* DON'T REMEMBER MEETING ME?

I DIED A COUPLE OF TIMES...THEN I WAS IN A COMA...LATER, I WAS INERT AND TRAPPED IN A TUBE FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS...THEN I WAS TRAPPED IN *ROGUE* FOR A WHILE.

...
THAT'S A LONG STORY.



ED. NOTE: SIMON'S GOT A VAGUE RECOLLECTION OF THE EVENTS OF DEFENDERS #47. --DANNY

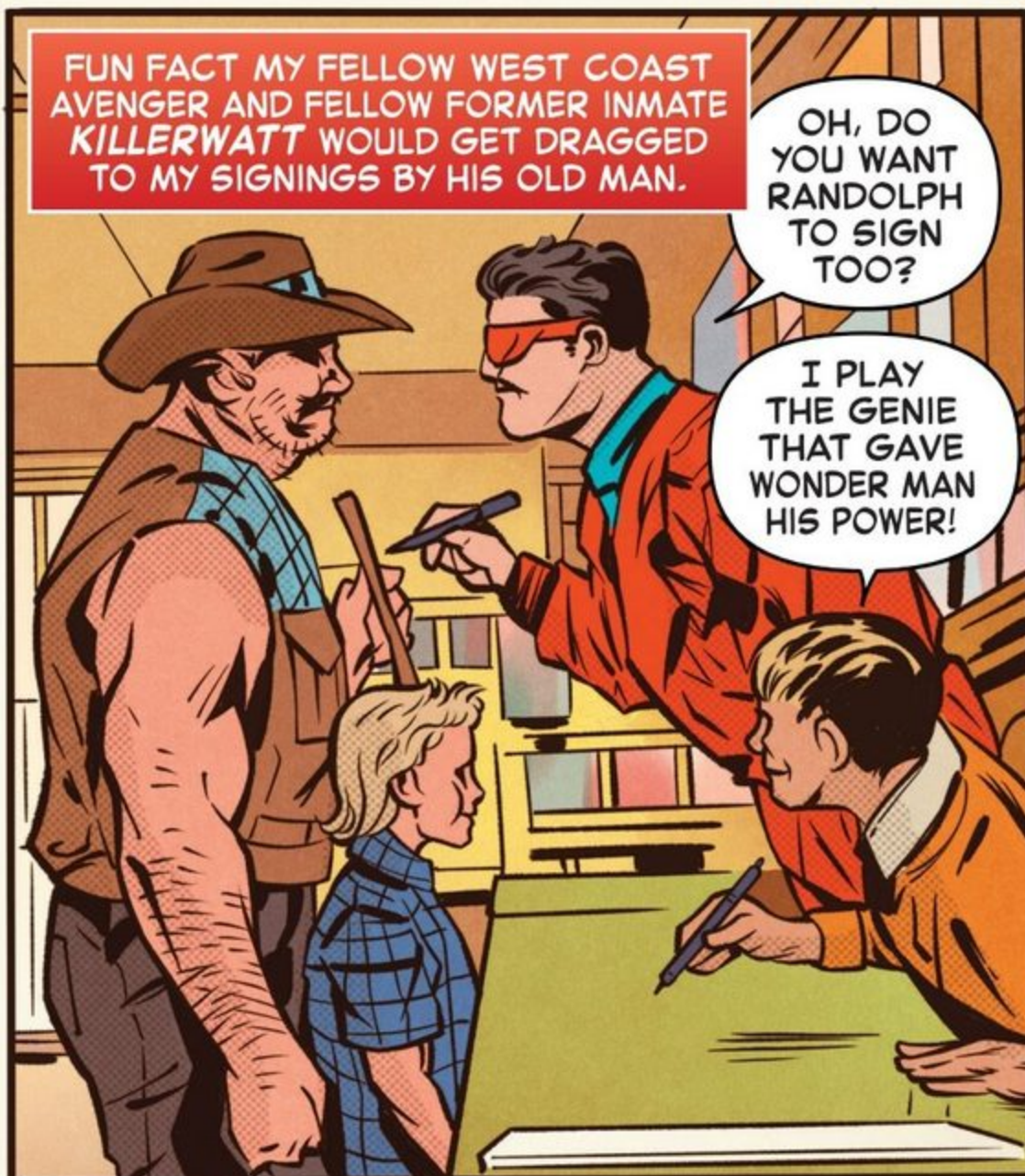




LOS ANGELES IS THE BEST. IT'S MADE UP OF NEARLY A HUNDRED DIFFERENT CITIES...BUT HOLLYWOOD'S KINDA LIKE A **SMALL TOWN** INSIDE OF IT.



BACK BEFORE HE WAS A STAR, RANDOLPH ACCOMPANIED ME TO THE COMIC SHOP TO CELEBRATE THE RELEASE OF A MOVIE I'D JUST STARRED IN, **MY UNCLE'S A SUPER HERO.**



FUN FACT MY FELLOW WEST COAST AVENGER AND FELLOW FORMER INMATE **KILLERWATT** WOULD GET DRAGGED TO MY SIGNINGS BY HIS OLD MAN.

OH, DO YOU WANT RANDOLPH TO SIGN TOO?

I PLAY THE GENIE THAT GAVE WONDER MAN HIS POWER!



HIS DAD WAS A BIG FAN OF MINE...BUT NOT OF RANDOLPH.

NAH, I'M GOOD. I'M JUST A WONDER MAN GUY. LET'S GO, TOMMY.



RANDOLPH'S CAREER ALMOST DIDN'T HAPPEN. THAT'S MATTHEW OUR AGENT AND BETH OUR BUSINESS MANAGER TALKING ABOUT DROPPING HIM.

WE **SHOULD** DROP HIM BEFORE PILOT SEASON TO GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO SHOP FOR A NEW REP.

I WAS THINKING--IT MIGHT BE A MISTAKE TO **DROP** RANDOLPH. I KNOW HE'S NOT MAKING ANY MONEY, BUT IT MIGHT UPSET OUR WONDER COW OVER THERE...

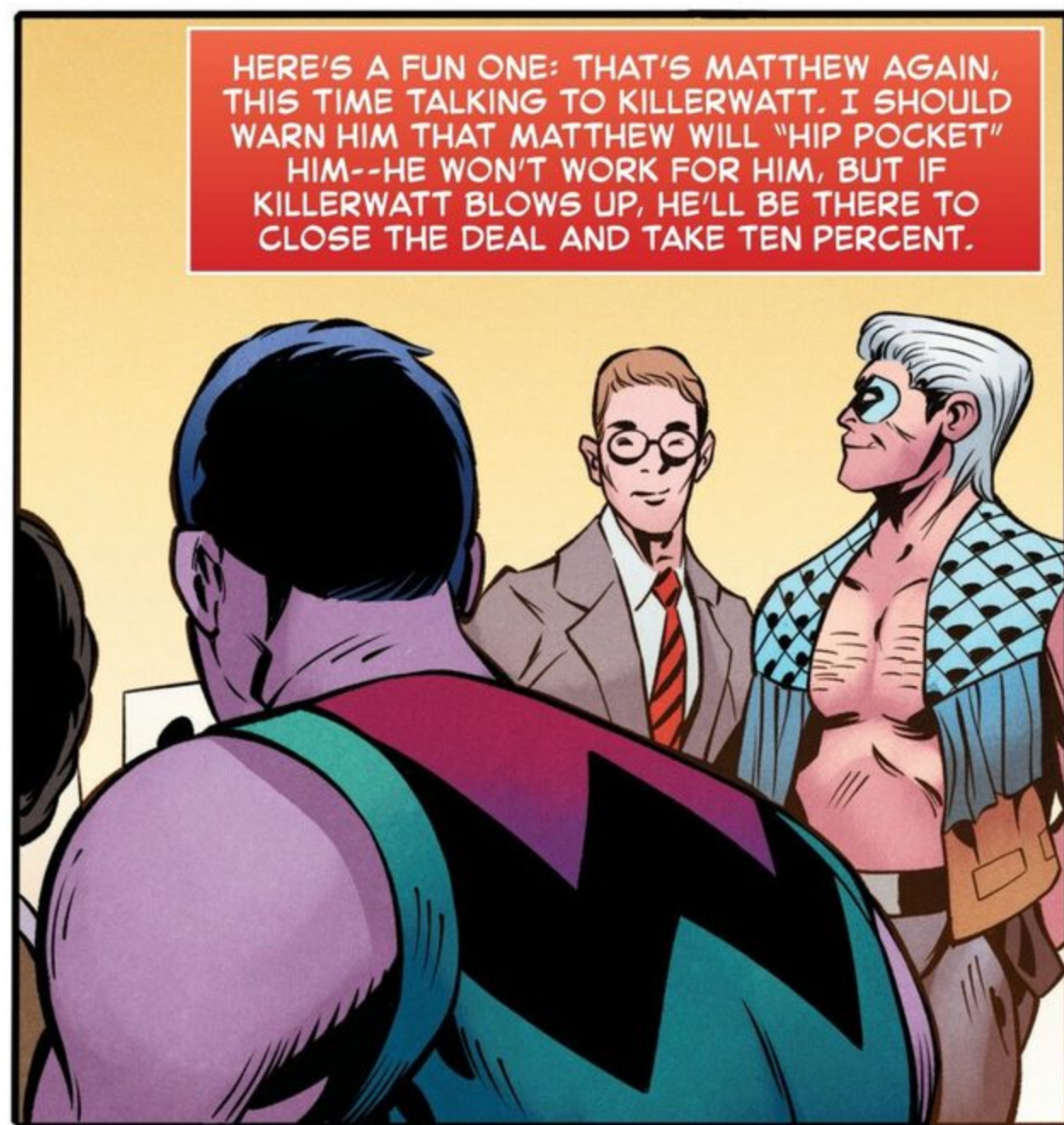
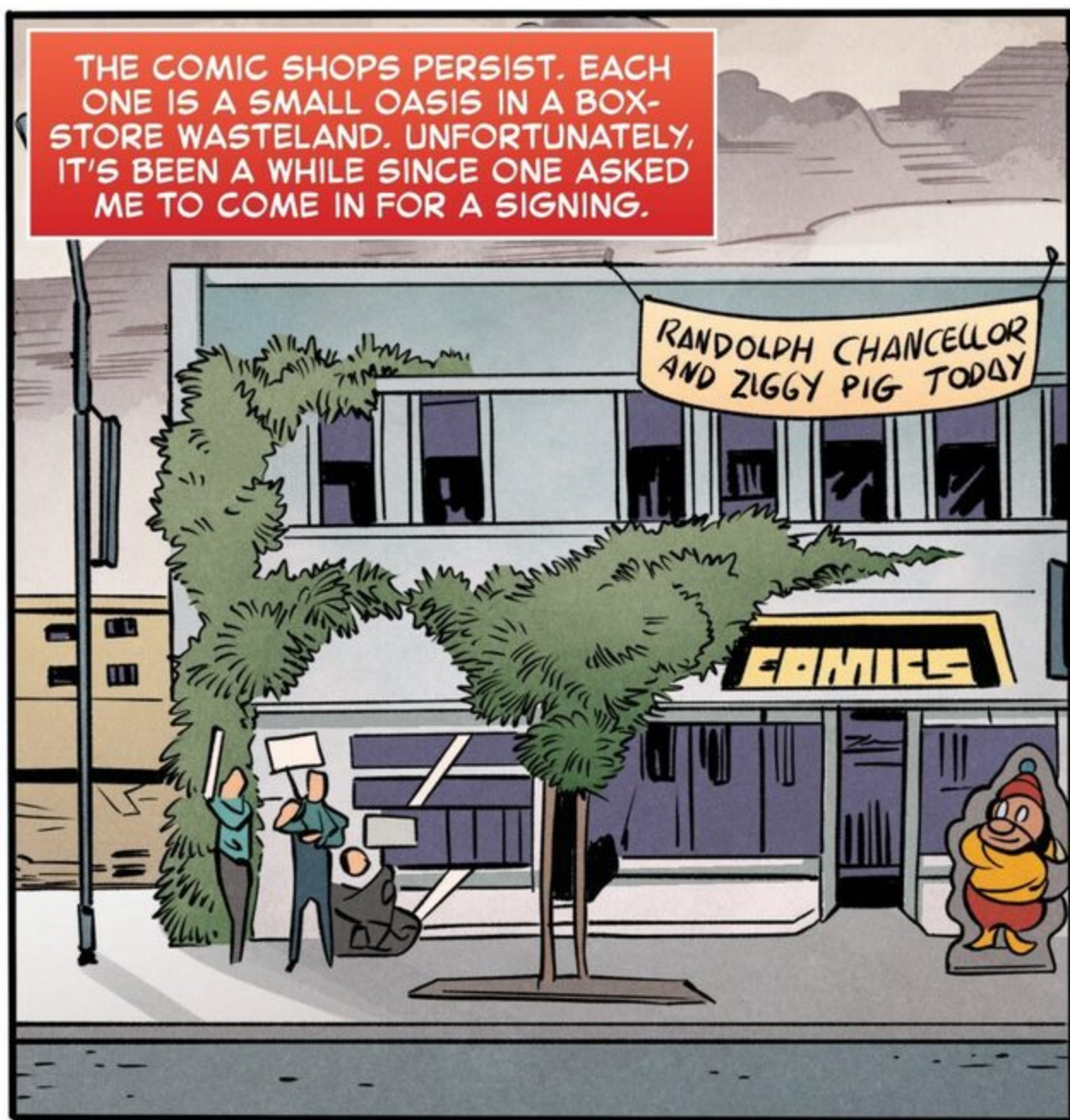


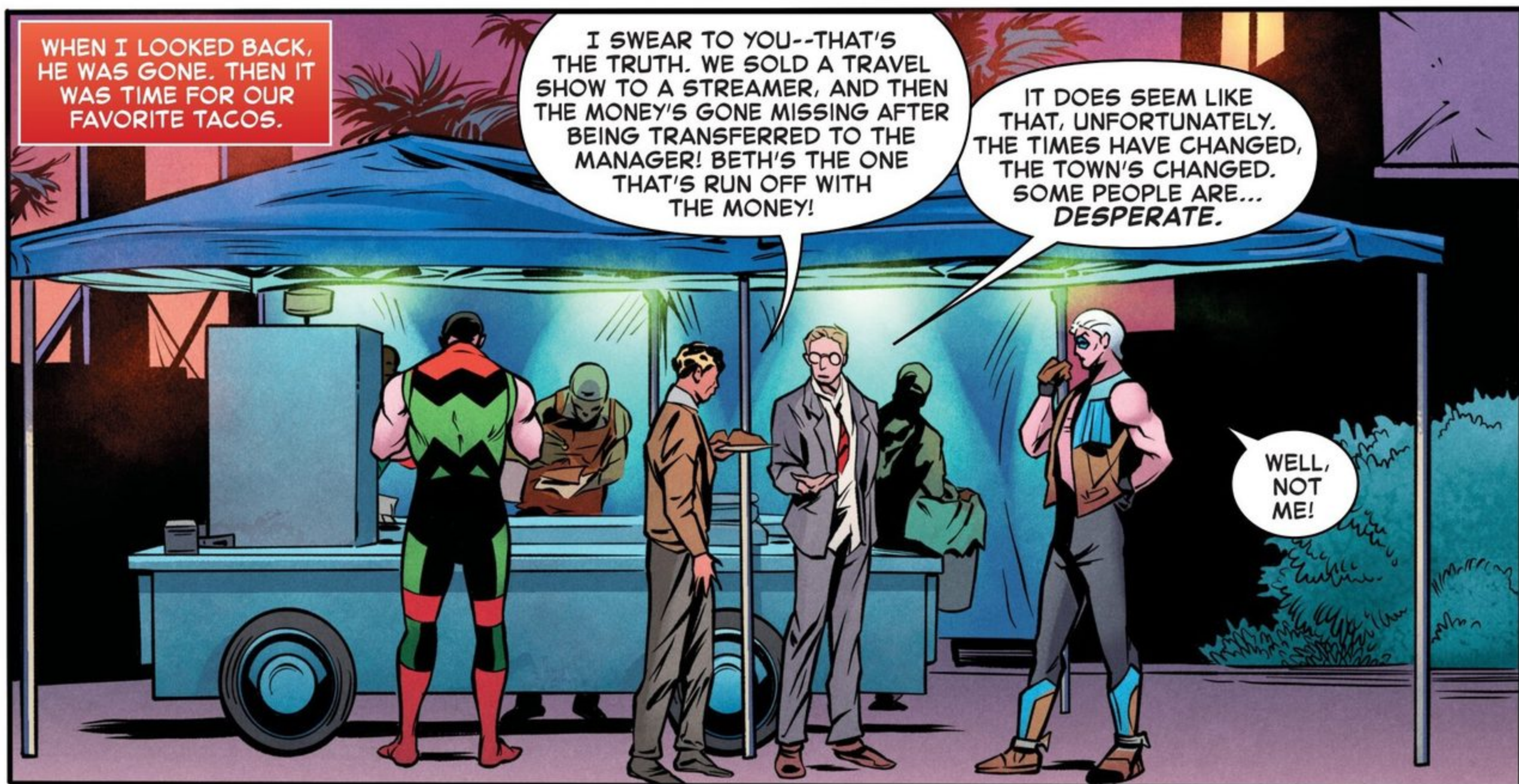
DEET!

SORRY, FOLKS--GOTTA FLY--THERE'S AN AVENGERS PRIORITY ALERT!

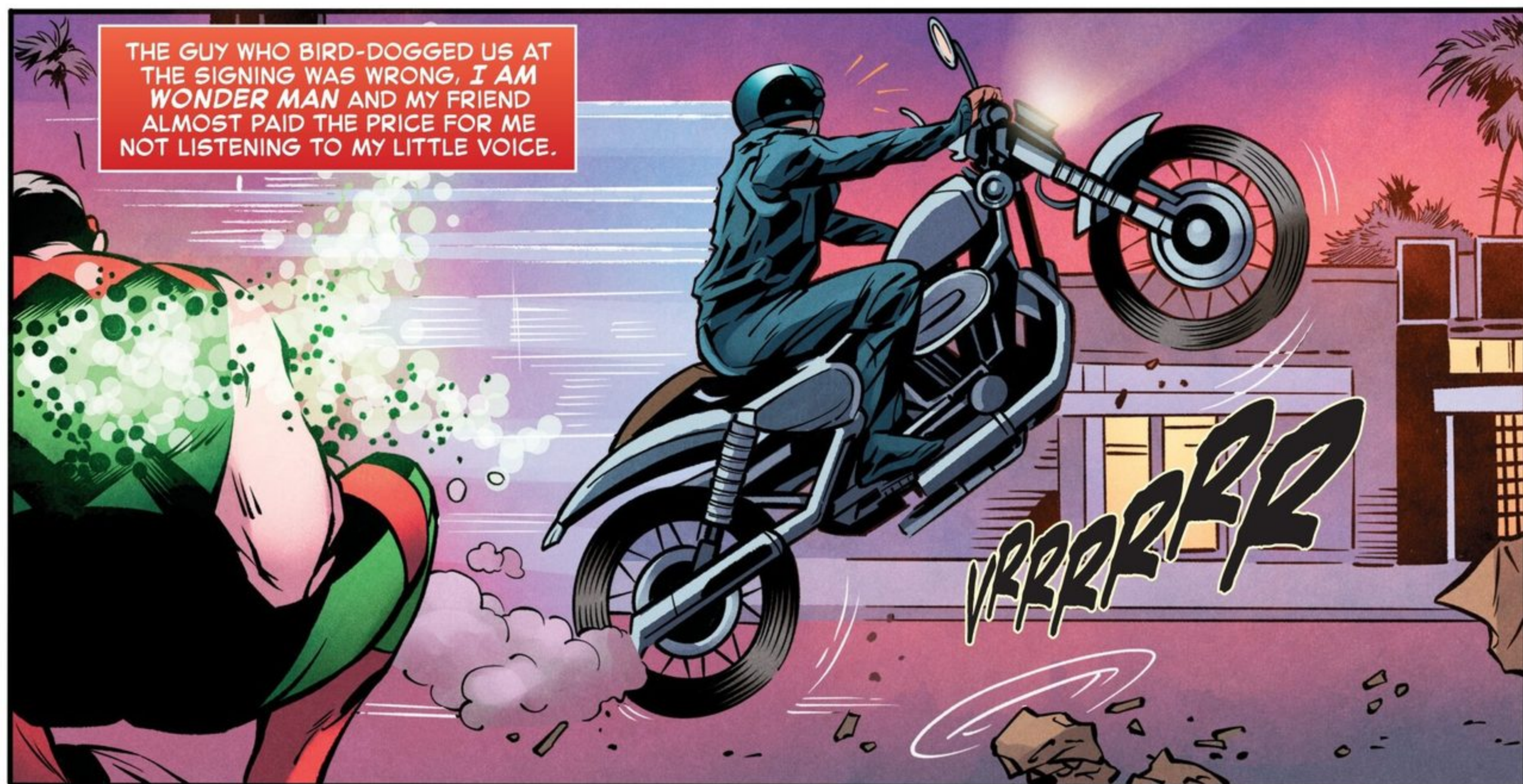


FWOOSH!

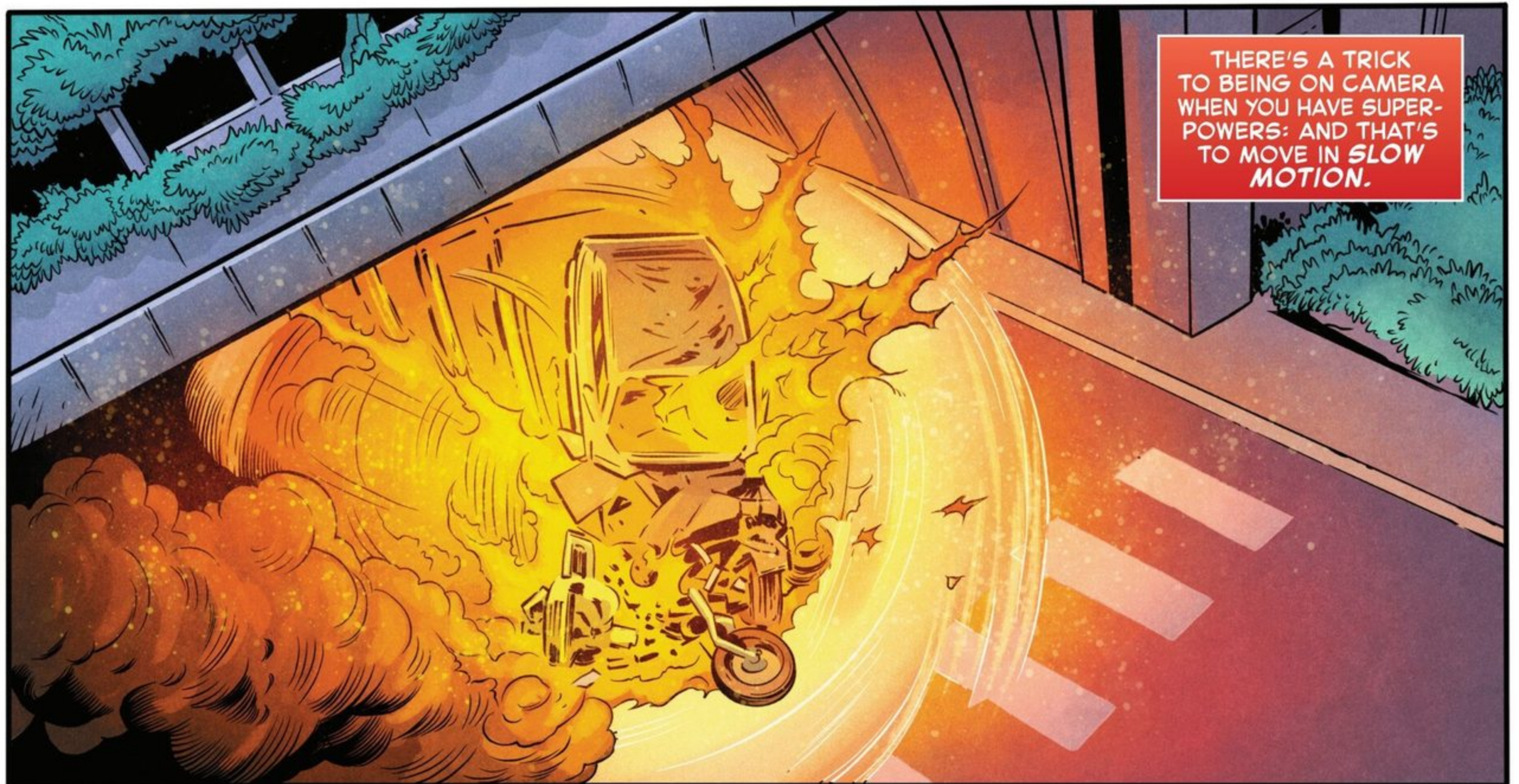














'CAUSE WHEN YOU MOVE AS FAST AS I CAN, 24 FRAMES PER SECOND, PEOPLE CAN'T KEEP UP.

YOU OWE THIS FAMILY A CAR, YOU BUM!



I'M JUST SHOCKED YOU WOULD TRY TO KILL RANDOLPH WHILE WONDER MAN WAS STANDING RIGHT THERE.



MAN, I SAW THE COOL AVENGER FLY OFF, AND WHEN YOU STAYED SHOVELING TACOS DOWN YOUR NECK, I JUST THOUGHT YOU WERE ONE OF THE COSPLAYERS THAT DRESS UP FOR TIPS BY THE BIG THEATER.



KILLERWATT COOL?! HE'S NOT COOL.

AND YOU WEREN'T WORRIED ABOUT WONDER MAN?!



MAN, HOW COULD I BE SO FREAKIN' STUPID...



...NOBODY'S COSPLAYED AS YOU SINCE MY UNCLE IS A SUPER HERO.

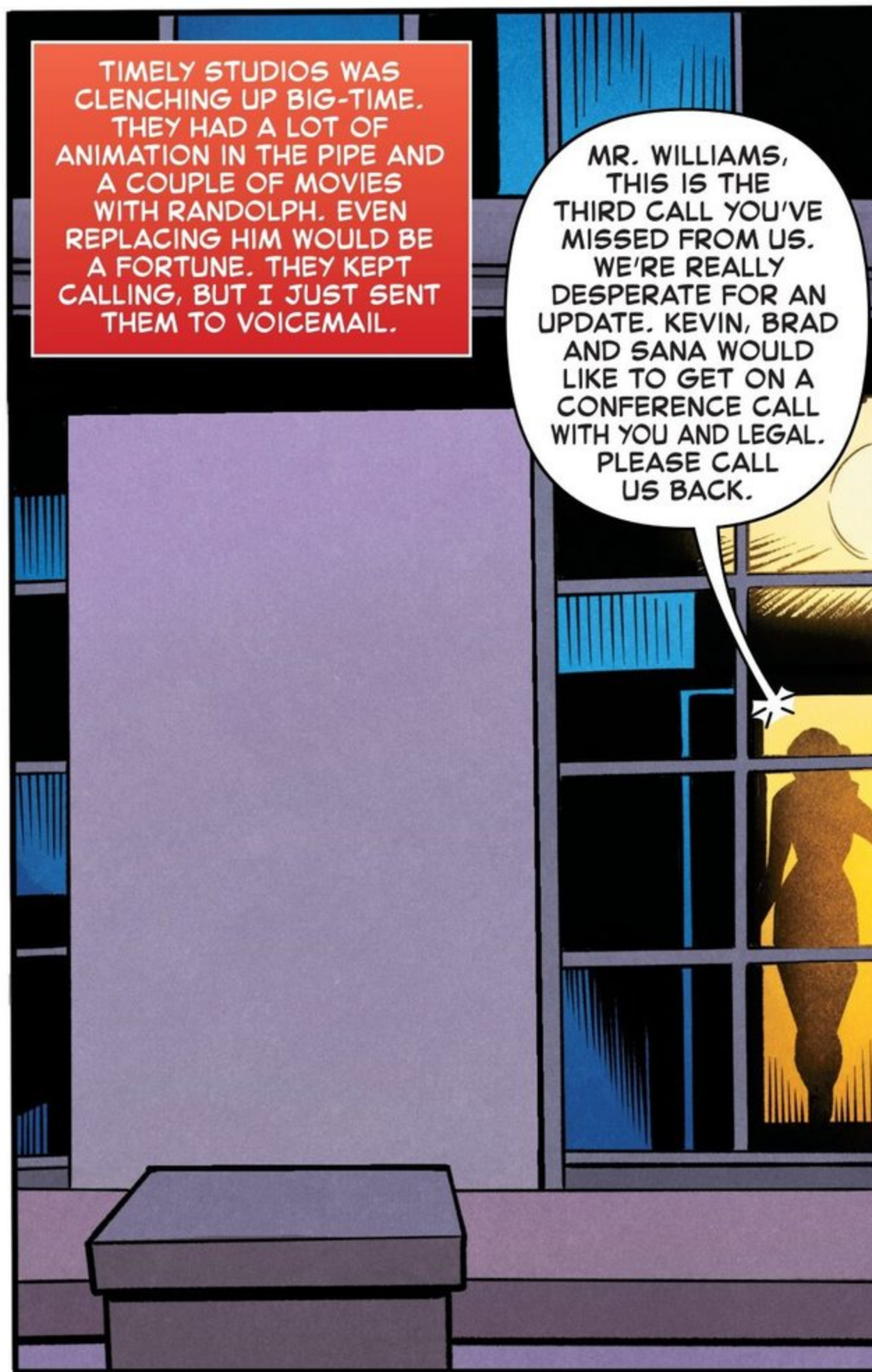


THE NEXT FEW HOURS ARE A **DISASTER**.

MR. CHANCELLOR HAS NO IDEA WHY ANYONE WOULD TARGET HIM FOR **ASSASSINATION**. THERE'RE RUMORS AND INNUENDOS ABOUT MISSING MONEY, AND ALL OF THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO **SMEAR** MY CLIENT.



THE ATTEMPT ON RANDOLPH SET OFF A FEEDING FRENZY, BUT THERE WAS NOT MUCH FOR THE MEDIA TO EAT...YET.



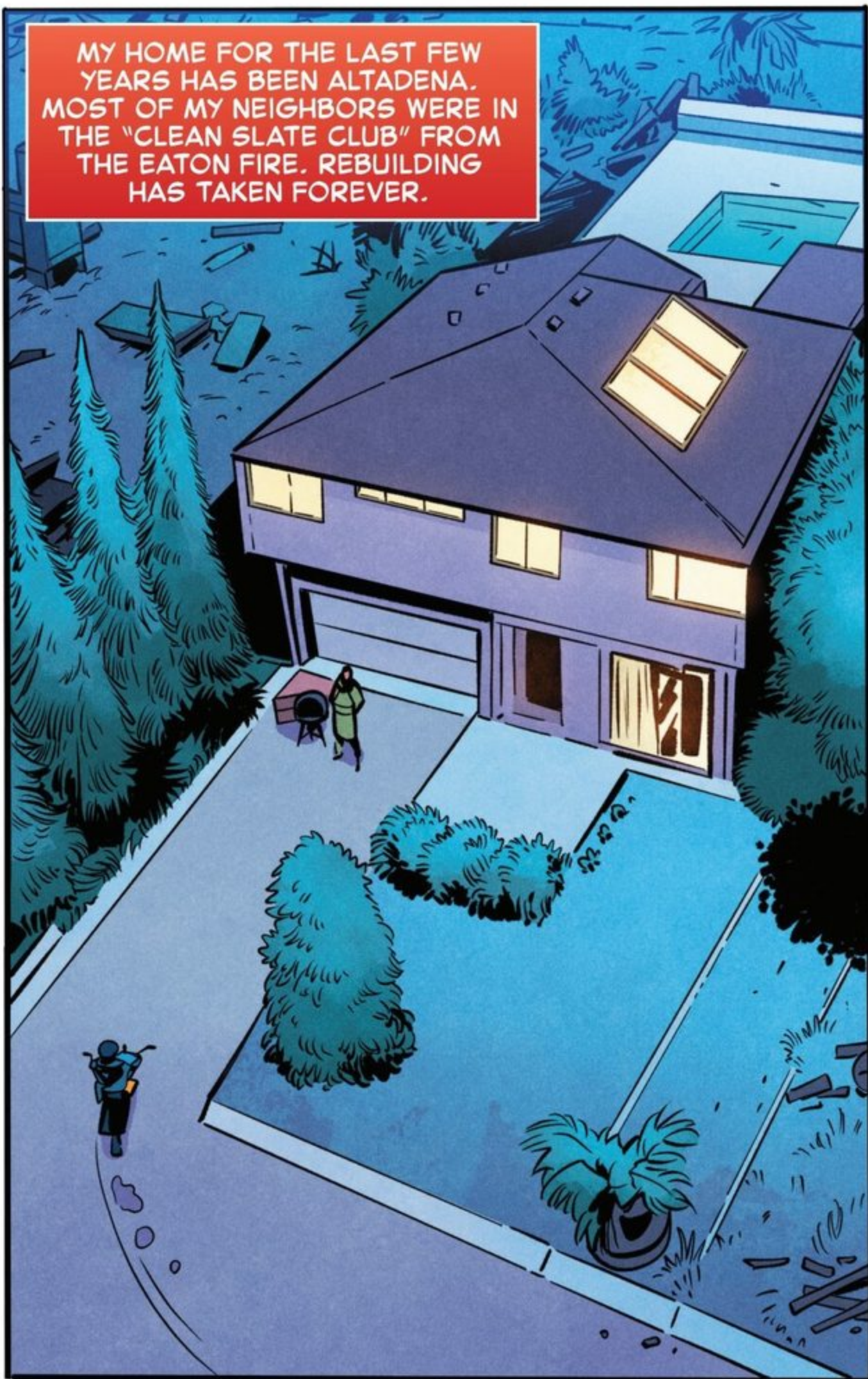
TIMELY STUDIOS WAS CLENCHING UP BIG-TIME. THEY HAD A LOT OF ANIMATION IN THE PIPE AND A COUPLE OF MOVIES WITH RANDOLPH. EVEN REPLACING HIM WOULD BE A FORTUNE. THEY KEPT CALLING, BUT I JUST SENT THEM TO VOICEMAIL.

MR. WILLIAMS, THIS IS THE THIRD CALL YOU'VE MISSED FROM US. WE'RE REALLY DESPERATE FOR AN UPDATE. KEVIN, BRAD AND SANA WOULD LIKE TO GET ON A CONFERENCE CALL WITH YOU AND LEGAL. PLEASE CALL US BACK.



THE WOULD-BE ASSASSIN WASN'T TALKING. NO SURPRISE THERE.

MY HOME FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS HAS BEEN ALTADENA. MOST OF MY NEIGHBORS WERE IN THE "CLEAN SLATE CLUB" FROM THE EATON FIRE. REBUILDING HAS TAKEN FOREVER.



HI,
SI.

HIYA, PATSY. LOOK, IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY, AND I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT WHAT'S GOING ON WITH RANDOLPH... I WISH I COULD SAY HE'S ABOVE TAKING THIRTEEN MILLION DOLLARS FROM A STREAMER AND NOT DELIVERING A SHOW, BUT...I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW.



THAT'S A BIG PLATE OF FOOD FOR ONE GUY.

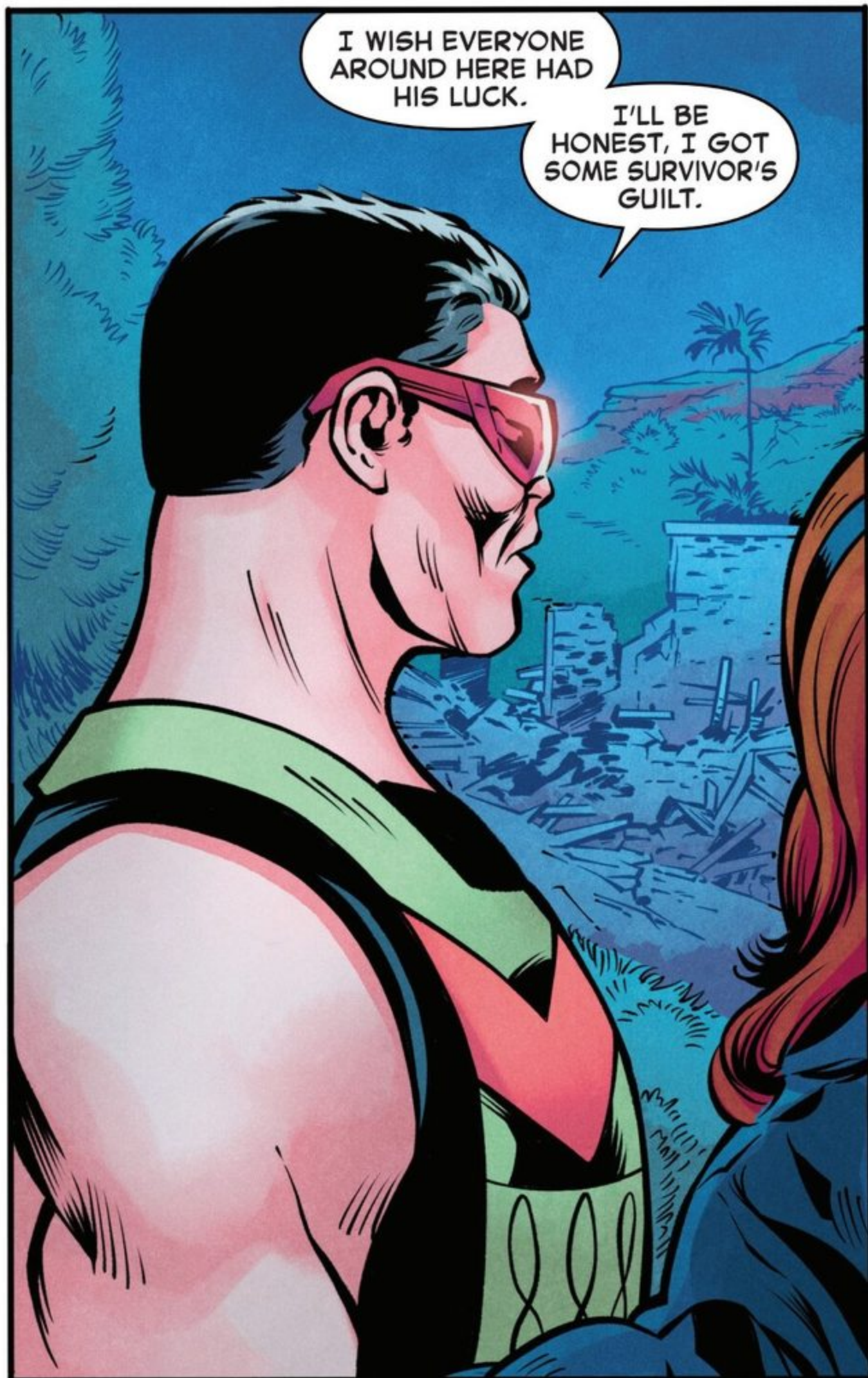
I'M A BIG GUY, HELLCAT. STILL GROWING.



WELL, YOUR FRIEND RANDY WAS LUCKY THERE WAS SUCH A BIG, BARREL-CHESTED FELLA WITH HIM TONIGHT.

THAT'S RANDOLPH-- RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME TO CATCH ALL THE LUCK. ASK HIM SOMETIME. IT'S A GREAT STORY HOW HE GOT TO BE SO LUCKY.





I WISH EVERYONE AROUND HERE HAD HIS LUCK.

I'LL BE HONEST, I GOT SOME SURVIVOR'S GUILT.



NOT TO MENTION THE FLYING, INVULNERABILITY AND PEOPLE MAGAZINE'S SEXIEST MAN ALIVE AWARD.

FORMER SEXIEST MAN ALIVE, BUT NICE OF YOU TO REMEMBER... AND THAT ENDED UP BEING A CURSE BECAUSE NOT LONG AFTER, I WAS THE SEXIEST MAN WHO WAS INERT.



LEMME MAKE SURE THIS GRILL IS CLOSED. LAST THING I NEED IS AN EMBER GETTING OUT.



SIMON, THERE'S MORE GOING ON HERE THAN YOU MIGHT REALIZE, AND I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW JUST HOW CAUGHT UP YOU ARE IN THIS WHOLE MESS.

I'M NOT!





"THE OTHER GOOD NEWS IS, WE FOUND RANDOLPH'S BUSINESS MANAGER. OH, AND THE BAD NEWS? WE FOUND THEM TOGETHER. HER. DEAD. *IN YOUR CAR.*"



I LIKE YOU, SIMON. I HOPE YOU'RE NOT CAUGHT UP IN THIS CRAP. IF YOU ARE--THE FIRST TO SING USUALLY DOES BETTER THAN THE REST. SO TELL ME...

...YOU EVER TAKE SINGING LESSONS?



YEAH. HERE'S ONE. AHM.

SEND LAWYERS, GUNS AND MONEY--



--THE #&%&'S HIT THE FAN!



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TITLE

AVP

NEXT



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